

Survivor Outreach Services

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April 2011
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Maine National Guard



As we continue to grow, SOS would like to hear from our Families. SOS is constantly looking for positive Survivor feedback on how to develop the SOS program. Please share your ideas, concerns and questions so that we can address the needs of Maine Survivors. We look forward to hearing from you!

The SOS Staff
Email or phone us at

rachel.bosse@us.army.mil
207-430-5959
Or
mary.omara@us.army.mil
207-430-5930

Help us keep you informed on the latest SOS news and information! If you have changed your mailing address or email address, let us know so we can keep your contact information current!

We're on the Web!
See us at:

www.me.ngb.army.mil/family/sos

We have facebook!

Join our Page on Facebook at
Maine Survivor Outreach

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We hope everyone had a very nice Easter and are ready for some nice warm weather. On April 3rd, 2011 we had our 3rd Survivor Family Luncheon and it was a beautiful, sunny Sunday morning. Those who attended felt it was very informative and enjoyed meeting with others. Mr. Hahna Patterson and Mr. Roy Driver were our guest speakers and we want to thank them, along with all our volunteers, who made it possible for the luncheon to be successful. We have enclosed some photos from the event. Keep your calendars open in September as we plan on our 4th Family Luncheon.

We wish everyone a very happy Mothers Day.



Never Forgotten, Never Alone....

BATTLE CROSS CEREMONY TO HONOR FALLEN HEROS

The State of Maine is recognizing its Veterans who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the Global War on Terrorism. Ten Mainers who made the ultimate sacrifice since 1 June 2009 will be honored. The memorial is a bronze statue of the battlefield cross that has a military dog tag for each Maine resident who is a State of Maine Gold Star Honorable Service Medal recipient. The dog tag has the individual's rank, name, date of loss, and Maine home town.

The ceremony will take place on May 25, 2011 at 2:00 PM in the Hall of Flags at the state capitol in Augusta. The individuals to be honored are:

LCPL Joshua M. Bernard
PFC Jordan M. Brochu
SGT Joshua J. Kirk
SPC Wade A. Slack
SSG Brandon Silk

SSG Eric B. Shaw
PFC Clinton E. Springer
1LT James R. Zimmerman
SPC Andrew L. Hutchins
PVT Buddy W. McLain

00B Flag Raising Ceremony honoring Maine's Fallen Veterans

This ceremony is to honor all deceased Veterans from any branch of the Armed Services of the USA who served honorably. Each night a Veteran will be honored with a flag raising ceremony at 6:00 PM at the Veteran's Memorial Park in Old Orchard Beach beginning on May 30, 2011 through September 5, 2011.

The Veteran does not have to have been killed in a war, only that they served honorably and are now deceased. This is a wonderful way to pay tribute to our fallen veterans. Contact Nancy Lee Kelley at 207-934-2360 for more information and to see what dates are still available.

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) **Possible** Increase
112th Congress - New bills introduced S. 260 and H.R. 178 both call for the elimination of the Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) offset to Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP), a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to repeal the requirement for reduction of survivor annuities under the SBP by veterans' dependency and indemnity compensation.

Currently military surviving spouses who qualify for both SBP and DIC see a dollar-for dollar reduction in the amount of SBP they receive unless they remarry after age 57 or assign the SBP to the children and completely forfeit any benefit when the children reach the age of majority. DIC currently pays 43% of what a 100% disable veteran receives as VA Disability Compensation. Most federal Survivor programs pay 55% of the employee's retirement pay to the surviving spouse. The DIC Increase Bill would provide a 12% increase for all surviving spouses who receive DIC. **Latest Major Action:** 2/2/2011 Referred to Senate committee. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

Hiking trail in Acroostook renamed for Fallen Marine

Gov. Paul LePage signed into law a measure to name a summit trail on Haystack Mountain in Castle Hill in honor of a Presque Isle native, Marine Corporal Dustin J. Libby who was killed in Iraq on Dec 6th, 2006.

Maine Legislature passed the bill directing the Department of Conservation, Bureau of Parks and Lands, to name the trail the Dustin J. Libby Trail.

Haystack Mountain, a Castle Hill landmark, is about 10 miles west of Presque Isle. The elevation is 1,142 feet. Hikers reach the summit after a moderate climb of about one of a mile.

Corporal Libby will live on in the hearts of those hikers going to the top of Haystack Mountain. You can see more of the article in the April 12th edition of the Bangor Daily Newspaper.

ANDREW SLACK RUNS BOSTON MARATHON IN MEMORY OF HIS BROTHER

On April 18, Andrew Slack ran the Boston Marathon, in memory of his brother Wade who was killed in action in Afghanistan on May 6th, 2010, and in support of the Boston Rescue Mission, where his sister, Meghan, works. Andrew was one of six people running on behalf of the Boston Rescue mission, and he raised \$5,300. Congratulations Andrew!!

New Tricare Program Offers Coverage for Young Adults Under 26

DoD announced today the Tricare Young Adult (TYA) program is now open for enrollment with coverage beginning May 1, 2011.

Military dependents under 26, unmarried, and not eligible for their own employer-sponsored health care coverage may be qualified to purchase TYA, which offers Tricare Standard coverage, for monthly premiums of \$186, as long as their sponsor is still eligible for Tricare. Those eligible for TYA who have been saving receipts since Jan. 1, 2011, in anticipation of the new program, can also pay all premiums back to January to purchase coverage retroactively. For more information see <http://www.tricare.mil/mybenefit/home/overview/Plans/LearnAboutPlansAndCosts/TRICAREYoungAdult?p=TYA> or call 207-430-5928.



Congratulations to House in the Woods for being 2011 Community Matters More \$1000.00 dollar winners. For more info visit <http://www.bangor.com/Why-Bangor-Savings/Supporting-Our-Communities/Community-Matters-More.aspx>

HOUSE IN THE WOODS

How would you like a day in the great outdoors? House in the Woods Military and Family Retreat, run by Paul House a Registered Maine Master Guide and father of a fallen hero, SGT Joel House, is a free outdoor self-help program to all Veterans and their families as well as Survivors of the Fallen and their families. Their mission is to create a therapeutic and recreational, and education retreat for our nations US Armed Forces and their families by using outdoor wilderness activities in Maine to create comfortable and relaxing atmosphere. to come together to share their common challenges which come from the service and sacrifice of protecting our nation's freedom.

*Never Forgotten...
Never Alone*

Check out "House in the Woods" website at <http://houseinthewoods.org> or contact Paul House at 207-738-4421 or cell: 207-570-4806 or you can contact him through email at me_guide@hotmail.com

If you are hosting or sponsoring an event in memory of your Fallen Service member let us know, we can help you spread the word.

Paul is looking for your emails so please contact him and give him your info if you want to get on his mailing list.

Rain or Shine The Race Goes On! June 25th, 2011



A Community Gathering — Proceeds To Benefit
The Captain Christopher Scott Cash Scholarship Fund



The Captain Christopher Scott Cash Memorial Scholarship is awarded each year to an outstanding student whose character represents that which Captain Cash stood for...The recipient is an athlete who has shown strengths in other important aspects of life. The recipient is someone who has unselfishly given to his/her community, is committed to his/her goals, conducts him/herself among others in an exemplary way, and plans to further their education.



Military and Family Life Financial Consultants

The Military & Family Life Consultant (MFLC) Program includes Personal Financial Counseling to help manage your finances, resolve financial problems and reach long-term goals; getting an education, buying a home and planning for retirement. They provide support and counseling services on confidential financial consultations for individuals and families, referrals to military and community resources; they help with credit management and budgeting, and help navigate state-related benefits. They provide training and workshops on basic money management, home buying, budgeting/developing and understanding mortgages, spending plans preventing foreclosure, debt and credit card management and much more. For more information call 207-629-7702 or email maine.pfc@gmail.com. MFLC Personal Financial Counseling services are free, anonymous and confidential.

Vet Centers

Vet Centers provide a personal and informal atmosphere and operate to assist eligible veterans and their families with free services. The services they offer are individual counseling, group counseling, counseling, bereavement counseling, employment counseling as well as many other types of counseling. They can assist you, the veteran, and your family whenever the need arises. Should you have questions, contact the nearest Vet Center closest to you.

Bangor Vet Center
In-town Plaza
352 Harlow Street
Bangor, ME 04401
207-947-3391

Portland Vet Center
475 Stevens Ave
Portland, ME 04103
207-780-3584

Sanford Vet Center
628 Main Street
Springvale, ME 04083

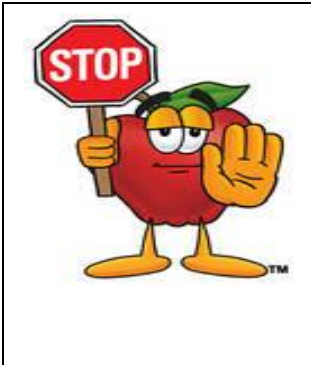
Caribou Vet Center
Irving Complex
456 York Street
Caribou, ME 04736
207-496-3900

Lewiston Vet Center
Parkway Complex
Lewiston, ME 04240
207-783-0068

Military OneSource



Military OneSource offers both short-term, solution-focused financial counseling and short-term adjustment to situational stressors, stress management, decision making, communication, grief, blended-family issues, and parenting-skills issues. Twelve sessions are available at no cost to Active Duty, Guard and Reserve members (regardless of activation status) and their families. All financial counselors are Accredited Financial Counselors and/or Certified Consumer Credit Counselors. Call 1-800-342-9647



VAS – Advisory Message

An organization called Veterans Affairs Services (VAS) is providing benefit and general information on the VA and then gathering personal data from veterans. This organization is NOT affiliated with the VA in any way. The Department of Veterans Affairs does not randomly call veterans. If you have not dealt with the VA previously and you receive a call from someone claiming they are with the VA, hang up!! Do not respond to their emails either – real VA websites end in “.gov” and the VA never conducts official business, nor asks for personal information, by email.

Social Security Numbers no longer required on ID Cards

During the month of June 2011, social security numbers will begin to stop showing on ALL ID Cards - including the sponsor's SSN. Instead of the SSN, each person entitled to have an ID card will have a unique DoD ID Number generated by DEERS. Anyone entitled to benefits will also receive a DoD Benefits Number on the card.

ID cards will not be reissued unless they are within 30 days of expiration. The only exception is the retiree ID Card that has an "INDEF" expiration. These cards can be reissued anytime upon the request of the card holder.

DEERS

Identification Cards are the ticket to continued health care coverage and ensures easy access to military installations, including use of base exchanges and commissaries. Ensure that you keep all information updated in DEERS, especially if you change your address or telephone number. You and your dependents are required to renew ID Cards every four years until age 21 unless in college, then up to 23 and for the spouse up to age 75, when you will be eligible to obtain a permanent ID Card.

Remarriage results in the forfeiture of the widow's ID Card and associated benefits, to include health coverage, except after the age of 57.

Contact number for DEERS:
1-800-538-9552, or visit
<http://www.tricare.mil/>



Mark your Calendars

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We're marking our calendars with events for the coming year and want to continue to share them with you. If you have events going on that you want us to get the word out – send us your information and we will post it to our facebook page along with getting the information out through other military organizations.

25 June 2011 - Run for Cash, the 5k in Old Orchard Beach that raises money for local scholarships in memory of CPT Christopher Scott Cash. See website: www.RunForCash.org

21 August 2011 - Run for the Fallen - remember the fallen troops from the State of Maine who gave the ultimate sacrifice during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. The run starts in Ogunquit and ends in Portland, Maine. Visit <http://runforthefallen.org/>

September/October 2011 is 4th Survivor Family Luncheon – Date/Location TBD

25 September 2011 – Gold Star Mothers Day

2 October 2011 - Maine Marathon Tribute March - Every year members of all services gather to remember the fallen troops from the State of Maine by conducting a 26.2 mile road march in Portland Maine in conjunction with the Maine Marathon during which respect is paid to those who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

18 December 2011 – Gold Star Wives Day



"Embracing and reassuring Survivors that they are continually linked to the Army Family through a unified support program that enables them to remain an important part of the Army for as long as they desire."

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and

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Waterville, ME 04901

SOS TEAM Phones
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(207) 430-5930 - Augusta

SURVIVOR OUTREACH SERVICES
MAINE NATIONAL GUARD
BLDG #7
CAMP KEYES
AUGUSTA, ME 04333-0033

Phone Numbers

DFAS 1-800-321-1080

Tri-Care Support Specialist 207-430-5928

ID Cards 207-626-4387

Martins Point Specialist 1-800-431-0777 x4458

Web Sites

www.dfas.mil

www.taps.org

www.va.gov

www.tricare.osd.mil

www.martinspoint.org

Gold Star Mothers
www.goldstarmoms.com

President Maine Chapter - Bethel Shields
blomsk@roadrunner.com or 207-782-7451